

Schmidt, Chester and Bartram were at Camp I waiting to reconnoiter the central ridge of the face. That night an avalanche of soft new snow demolished Camp I. Bowes and Reeves were rolled 300 yards down the mountain in a hoop tent; Schmidt and Bartram woke up in a crushed pyramid tent. The seven climbers reassembled and sat out the night in the remaining damaged tent. The next day all descended to find the intermediary camp obliterated. At the foot of the Base Camp ridge, on a traverse, soft snow avalanched and triggered the sub-layer of hard old snow which overrode this and was funnelled between two hills. Blake, Reeves, Schmidt and Morse were carried away. Blake on the edge was quickly recovered but the other three were buried and died instantly. We then called off the expedition. On the trip home Faye Kerr tragically died in Madras of a perforated ulcer.

WARWICK DEACOCK, *Australian Section, New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Annapurna III.* Our expedition was composed of Jean-Pierre Rieben, Bernard Polli, Patrik Gaillard, Bruno Vocat, Dr. Claude Pfefferlé, Jean-Claude Gay-Crosier and me as leader. Temba Sherpa was also a full member of the climbing team. Base Camp was established on September 28 at 13,125 feet, an hour and a half above Manang. After a brief reconnaissance of the three ridges in the northeast face, to gain the upper plateau, we decided to use the route situated slightly north of the one used in 1961 by the Indians. That is to say we climbed a couloir which gave access to the south ridge of Base Camp Peak (near the rightmost of the three ridges—*Editor*). Camps I and II were at 17,900 and 20,000 feet. Camp III was at 21,500 feet on a col on the great plateau. On October 14 Rieben and Temba reconnoitered the east ridge and on the 15th at four P.M. in eight-and-a-half hours they climbed to the summit. On the return they started down the Indian route in the northeast face, which was shorter but without tracks. They arrived back at Camp III at eleven P.M. after painfully reascending to the east col. On October 17 Gaillard, Polli and I climbed the 6900-meter (22,638-foot) point north of Camp III. The former two hoped to climb the east ridge to the main summit but a big wind storm arose on the night of the 17th and they withdrew everything from Camps III and II with the help of Dr. Pfefferlé and me who went up to help them. By October 21 all the camps and fixed ropes had been brought back to Base Camp. Storm winds still blew on the summits.

DENIS BERTHOLET, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*Annapurna IV Attempt, 1979.* We were Jaume Serrat, Kim Prunes and I, *Catalans*, Felipe Uriarte and Martín Zabaleta, *Basques*, Carlos Buhler, *American*, and others. We began our approach march from

Dumre on the Kathmandu-Pokhara road on October 3, 1979 and continued all the way up the Marsyandi River to Base Camp on October 11 above Ongre (12,625 feet). We carried loads up the moraine and finally established Camp I at 16,100 feet on October 12. Heading south, we crossed the glacier, ascended rock, ice and mixed terrain to reach the snow ridge that descends to the northeast from the ridge that connects Annapurnas III and IV. We fixed rope in this section. Camp II was established at 17,725 feet on October 18. The ridge continued to be steep and had séracs and crevasses. We placed Camp III at 20,000 feet on October 21. After bypassing séracs, we reached the ridge between Annapurnas III and IV, where Camp IV was established on October 25 at 22,650 feet. The attack team, Buhler and a Sherpa, spent a cold night. The Sherpa fell seriously ill with vomiting and a strong headache. Two others of us came up from Camp III to help him down to Camp I that day, while the rest evacuated the camps.

JOSEP ACED, M.D., *Club Muntanyenc de Terrassa, Spain*

*Annapurna IV.* We climbed the standard northwest ridge of Annapurna IV (7525 meters, 24,688 feet), using some 3000 feet of fixed rope. Our expedition was organized by the German Alpine Club Mountain and Ski School with twelve members and two guides. The summit was reached on October 23 by Ang Pasang, Nga Temba, Quirin Oellinger and Fritz Gertsch and on October 26 by Adolf Welsch, Josef Ressle and me.

FRANZ KRÖLL, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Churen Himal Attempt.* A 14-man Italian expedition led by Oliviero Frachey attempted to climb Churen Himal by the southeast ridge of the east peak. They came to Nepal late and allowed insufficient time for their climb. After establishing four high camps, they failed to get higher than 23,300 feet, which they reached on October 26.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Fang.* The Fang (7647 meters, 25,090 feet) is a sharp rock-and-ice tooth crowning three jagged ridges and sérac-covered faces, southwest of Annapurna I. Its south face rises steeply some 16,000 feet. The highest still unclimbed summit in Nepal, it had resisted stubborn attacks by two Austrian and one Italian expeditions on the east and west ridges. Our expedition was composed of Dr. Bernd Bahner, Dr. Jochen Hoyer, Hermann Neumair, Oswald Gassler, Sepp Sint, Albert Fellinger and me as leader. We planned to attempt an 8000-foot south face to reach the west ridge. We left Pokhara on April 6 and reached Base Camp on the Ghaleti Khola on April 12. We fixed 10,000 feet of rope in the next ten